

Whiteleg Skate, *Amblyraja taaf*

Report Card assessment	Sustainable		
IUCN Red List Australian Assessment	Least Concern	IUCN Red List Global Assessment	Data Deficient
Global Assessors	Pollom, R., Gasco, N., Leslie, R. & Péron, C.		
Australian Assessors	Rigby, C.L. & Simpfendorfer, C.A.		
Report Card Remarks	Very low level of interaction with Australian fisheries; strictly managed and monitored.		

Summary

The Whiteleg Skate is a poorly-known medium-sized deepwater ray that occurs in temperate waters of the Antarctic Indian Ocean off the Crozet Islands and on the Kerguelen Plateau, including in waters of the Heard and McDonald Islands (HIMI) (Australian Territory). It is caught incidentally in longline fisheries that target Patagonian Toothfish. The levels of fishery interactions within the HIMI are very low. The species is subject to strict management in HIMI waters and it would receive refuge in shallow depths. Therefore, the Whiteleg Skate is assessed as globally Data Deficient, and in Australia as Least Concern (IUCN), and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Whiteleg Skate occurs in temperate waters of the Antarctic Indian Ocean in the area off the Crozet Islands, Del Cano Rise, and the Prince Edward and Marion Islands and also in the area of the Kerguelen Plateau and the Elan-Bank (Pollom et al. 2020). On the Kerguelen Plateau, it is present in waters of the Heard and McDonald Islands (Australian Territory) (W. White and J. Cleeland pers. comm. 2022).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure, or trend for the species.

Fisheries

The Whiteleg Skate is caught incidentally in demersal longline fisheries that target Patagonian Toothfish (*Dissostichus eleginoides*) in the southern Indian Ocean, and in at least the Crozet Islands is occasionally retained for consumption (Pollom et al. 2020). It has been reported from the longline fisheries for Patagonian Toothfish within the Heard and McDonald Islands (HIMI) but the reported catch levels are very low. The species is managed under the Australian Fisheries Management Authority that adopt the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

(CCAMLR) bycatch limits, move-on rules, and no fishing permitted above depths of 500 m (Dulvy et al. 2020). The species would receive some refuge at depths above 500 m.

Habitat and biology

The Whiteleg Skate is demersal on the insular shelf and slope at depths of 150–1,810 m (Duhamel et al. 2005, Pollom et al. 2020). Maximum size is 113 cm total length (TL) (Duhamel et al. 2005). Little else is known of its biology.

Longevity and maximum size	Longevity: unknown Max size: 113 cm TL
Age and/or size at maturity (50%)	Males: unknown Females: unknown

CAAB Code: Not yet available

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/161392/124476426>

Link to page at Shark References: <https://shark-references.com/species/view/Amblyraja-taaf>

References

- Duhamel, G. & Gasco, N. and Davaine, P. 2005. *Poissons des îles Kerguelen et Crozet. Guide régional de l'océan Austral*. 417 p. Paris: Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle.
- Dulvy, N.K., Bineesh, K.K., Cheok, J., Dharmadi, Finucci, B., Pacoureaux, N. and Sherman, C.S. 2020. *Bathyraja irrasa*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020*: e.T161659A124523337.
- Patterson, H., Bromhead, D., Galeano, D., Larcombe, J., Timmiss, T., Woodhams, J. and Curtotti, R. 2022. *Fishery status reports 2022*, Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, Canberra.
- Pollom, R., Gasco, N., Leslie, R. & Péron, C. 2020. *Amblyraja taaf*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020*: e.T161392A124476426.